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## War, Death, Desolation, Horror.

Just as our forms are being completed, Austria has made formal declaration of war on Servia, after having received Servia's reply to her ultimatum. The immediate occasion for the outbreak of hostilities was the assassination of the Arch-Duke Francis Ferdinand and his wife when attending military maneuvers at Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. The Serbs were held responsible for the murders, their desire for revenge on the Austrian Empire dating from its absorption of the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Servian government granted practically all of the Austrian demands for the suppression of anti-Austrian propaganda and the like, and made final appeal to the Hague tribunal in case the reply was considered inadequate.

As Russia and Germany, as well as the other European powers, are all associated with the belligerents, it looks at the moment as if the whole of Europe was likely to be involved in the strife. War has actually been declared by both Russia and Germany, and France is mobilizing her troops. The British government has done everything in its power to avoid the conflict, but seemingly without avail. The war clouds are thick and threatening, and the hope of peace hangs on a slender thread. Is the long-prophesied great war of Europe, with its death, its destruction and desolation, actually beginning? God pity the world!

## Developments in the Mexican Situation.

Events have been shaping themselves rapidly in Mexico in the past few weeks. Early in July the mediators left Niagara Falls, after having agreed upon a protocol which provided for the constitution of a provisional government in Mexico, the recognition of this government by the United States and the three mediating governments in due time, amnesty to all foreigners for all political offenses, establishment of international commissions for the settlement of claims for damages, and agreement by this country not to claim war indemnity. A full account of the proceedings of the mediation conference will be found on another page of this issue.

On July 15 President Huerta sent in his formal resignation, and on July 21 sailed for Jamaica. Señor Francisco Carbajal, the recently appointed minister of foreign relations, became provisional president. He is a distinguished jurist, and has been chief justice of the supreme court of Mexico. He is reported to be ready to turn over the government to General Carranza, if the latter will give guarantees for the protection of the life and property of those who supported Huerta. The mediators have indicated that their governments will not recognize any government in Mexico which refuses to establish itself by peaceful means. On Monday,

July 27, the delegates named by President Carbajal left for Saltillo for the peace conference with the representatives of General Carranza. It seems likely that the Carbajal envoys will accede to Carranza's demand for surrender. The latest reports indicate that a basis for the arrangement of peace in Mexico has been agreed upon.

## Franco-German Conference at Basel.

One of the most important and fruitful gatherings of recent months was the meeting on May 30, at Basel, Switzerland, of the Franco-German Interparliamentary Committee. Many predictions were made that the conference held last year at Berne would be devoid of results, but the outcome has been encouraging.

The committee named at Berne consisted of six members: Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, Mr. Gaston, and Mr. Jean Jaurès, of the French Parliament, and Mr. Haase, Mr. Conrad Haussmann, and Mr. Ricklin, German deputies. This committee added to itself until it numbered about forty representatives of the leading political parties in the two countries. Of this number nearly all were present at Basel. Baron d'Estournelles was president of the French delegation and Mr. Conrad Haussmann of the German.

The meeting was held in a spirit of the utmost cordiality and friendliness, while at the same time there was an earnestness and sobriety and a recognition of the difficulty of the task that was theirs. The jingo press on both sides the boundary line made light of the meeting, and derided its efforts; but in spite of this the better sentiment of the two countries supported it warmly.

The main session was held on Saturday morning, May 30. On the preceding evening the two delegations met separately and carefully deliberated on what was to be accomplished. As a result the formal business session was marked by definiteness of proposals and brevity of discussion. This communication to the peoples of France and Germany was adopted unanimously:

The Permanent Interparliamentary Franco-German Committee appointed at the Berne conference notes that this conference, which was very well received in both countries, has already produced good fruit. It has made all enlightened persons in both France and Germany more hopeful of lasting rapprochement between these two nations, and more determined to help to bring this about. The time is now ripe for concerted action with this end in view.

The peoples are suffering from the prevalence of mutual distrust and incessant war scares, the effect of which is everywhere shown by the piling up of immense armaments, which threaten ultimately to cause the gravest economic and financial crises while paralyzing the efforts of civilization.

The day is drawing near when public opinion in all countries will call to account the jingo press and those